

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

**Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures**

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Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

DATE: August 1, 2013

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Second District
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY ERADICATION IN CERRITOS AND ARTESIA

Since my July 15 update regarding detections of four sexually mature male specimens of Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF), a major agricultural pest, one female specimen has also been detected and confirmed as OFF. At present, we are awaiting confirmation of the detection of additional mature specimens as well as larvae, which would indicate presence of a breeding population in the Cerritos and Artesia area. If a breeding population of OFF is confirmed in that area, after notifying residents, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) personnel will be removing fruit and conducting foliar treatments at locations where female specimens or larvae are detected, and on properties within a 200 meter radius of each detection. Treatments include applying Spinosad to host and ornamental trees. Spinosad is an organic product, derived from naturally occurring soil bacteria, and is applied via backpack hand sprayers. Fruit flies feed on the bait and are killed by a small amount of Spinosad in the bait. Such treatments may occur as early as tomorrow, Friday, August 2.

An infestation, involving a breeding population of OFF, has been confirmed in the western area of the Orange County jurisdiction of Anaheim. Due to proximities of these two infestations, I anticipate that a quarantine will be established which will radiate from the Cerritos/Artesia area and Anaheim to facilitate effective controls against the potential expansion of any infestation. A quarantine would place restrictions on the movement of host fruits, vegetables, and plant materials through the area.

The "male attractant" technique described in my previous update will continue to be employed by CDFA at two week intervals. No aerial bait treatments are planned.

ACWM is providing all needed assistance to CDFA in addressing this matter. We are informing the City Managers of Cerritos and Artesia and your Board offices in the treatment area to enable staff to answer questions from the public. I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

KEF:kp

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Georgia Mattera, Manager, Public Safety Cluster
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer
Board Deputies